

# *DFEH News Brief*

Date: October 6, 2009  
For Immediate Release

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## **NATIONAL FAIR LENDING EDUCATION PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN LOS ANGELES BY STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS**

Elk Grove, CA – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), National Fair Housing Training Academy (NFHTA), and the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) this week launched a series of national seminars on lending discrimination. Developed by NFHTA and the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, the seminars aim to educate the public, realtors and mortgage counselors about fraudulent, predatory, and unfair mortgage lending.

HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, John Trasviña, officially launched the initiative on October 5, 2009 with NFHTA Executive Director, Percy Thomas, and DFEH Director, Phyllis Cheng, in Marina del Rey, California.

“California is one of the hardest hit states in the foreclosure crisis,” said John Trasviña, HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. “That is why we are here to kickoff our comprehensive education program with our partners at the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing. Together, we can provide the needed services and help to people across this state and beyond.”

Said NFHTA Executive Director, Percy Thomas, “Given the economic situation in the nation and the housing crisis, this training will go a long way to make consumers aware of discriminatory and predatory lending practices, and prepare individuals and staff in the fair housing industry to engage with HUD in the fight against such practices.”

“Education is the best way to protect Californians from discriminatory lending,” said DFEH Director Phyllis Cheng. “The DFEH is proud to partner with HUD and NFHTA in the fight against unlawful lending practices in California. I encourage everyone interested in fair housing and lending to attend these free seminars.”

The kickoff event initiated a series of free public seminars in nine cities across the country (Los Angeles, Stockton, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Ft. Worth, Cleveland, Philadelphia, and Miami) to help educate the public on lending issues and how to avoid foreclosure. The two-to-three day seminars have been developed to cover:

- Mortgage Lending Discrimination and Predatory Lending;
- Financial Aspects of Lending;
- Foreclosure Prevention; and
- Borrower/Buyer Beware.

All seminars are free and open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis. Individuals, agencies or organizations interested in attending must register online at <http://www.nfhta.org>. Spanish interpreters will be available for each seminar. For more information about the Los Angeles and Stockton seminars, please visit the DFEH's Web site at [www.dfeh.ca.gov](http://www.dfeh.ca.gov).

The mission of the DFEH is to protect the people of California from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations and from hate violence. For more information, visit the Department's Web site at [www.dfeh.ca.gov](http://www.dfeh.ca.gov).

